

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1903

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 10156

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: BOGOTA 9681, BRASILIA 8046

1. WE MUCH APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COURTESY IN SENDING US A COPY OF BOGOTA'S 9681 WITH ITS HELPFUL COMMENT ON GROUND THAT MIGHT BE COVERED WHEN SECRETARY MEETS COLOMBIAN FONMIN NOVEMBER 30. BRASILIA'S 8046 IS LIKEWISE APPPOSITE.

2. I HAVE HAD IMPRESSION FROM CALVANI AND FROM READING REPORT OF BOGOTA FONMINS CONFERENCE THAT CALVANI AT LEAST IS ANXIOUS TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AT THE MEXICO MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. IN FACT, THOUGHT MIGHT BE GIVEN IN DEPARTMENT TO LINING UP A "TEAM" OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO MIGHT EACH BE A PROTAGONIST IN SUPPORTING ONE OR MORE THEMES WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY.

3. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, CALVANI HAS IN THE PAST PROVED HIMSELF EXCEEDINGLY HELPFUL IN FENDING OFF UNWARRANTED ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, AND IN THIS ROLE HE WAS PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE LAST SPRING WHEN HE PRESIDED OVER THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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4. IN THINKING OF THINGS FOR CALVANI AT LEAST TO TAKE THE LEAD

ON, I WOULD SAY THAT CLEARLY LAW OF THE SEA IS HIS SUBJECT. NOT ONLY DID CALVANI CONJURE UP THE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA AND CARRY IT THROUGH TO A REASONABLY MODERATE CONCLUSION BUT HE HIMSELF WILL BE THE MAINSPRING OF THE FORTHCOMING CARACAS CONFERENCE ON LOS. PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, VENEZUELA IS ONE OF THE FEW LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH SEES MORE OR LESS THE WAY WE DO ON LOS ALTHOUGH WE STILL HAVE TO DO A GOOD DEAL OF MISSIONARY WORK IN GETTING VENEZUELAN SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION ON FREE PASSAGE THROUGH AND OVER MARITIME STRAITS.

5. CALVANI MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL TO US ON THE ISSUE OF PANAMA. VENEZUELA HAS NO PARTICULAR AX TO GRIND ON THE POLITICAL ISSUES UNDER DEBATE BETWEEN THAT COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES, BUT CALVANI, BECAUSE HE IS A DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, MIGHT EASILY SEE THE ANALOGY BETWEEN AN INTEROCEANIC CANAL AND INTEROCEANIC STRAITS. HE MIGHT THEN BE ENCOURAGED TO ATTACK THE CANAL PROBLEM FROM A LEGALISTIC POINT OF VIEW AND THUS DRAW OFF FIRE FROM MORE POLITICALLY INSPIRED GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS PERU AND MEXICO SHOULD THEY CHOOSE TO USE THE CANAL ISSUE AS A MEANS OF BELABORING THE UNITED STATES.

6. ONE THEME WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE DISCUSSED IN MEXICO IS QUESTION OF CUBA, AND ON THIS ONE WE SHOULD DEFLECT CALVANI BY GIVING HIM OTHER IMPORTANT TOPICS ON WHICH TO ACT AS "FLOOR MANAGER." BECAUSE OF VENEZUELA'S FRUSTRATED INITIATIVE TO SECURE A MAJORITY OAS VOTE TO READMIT CUBA TO THE LATIN AMERICAN FAMILY OF NATIONS, HE PROBABLY WILL TAKE A LINE ON CUBAN RECOGNITION WHICH WILL BE AT ODDS WITH OUR POSITION AS CURRENTLY STATED. ON THIS ISSUE PERHAPS SOME OTHER FOREIGN MINISTER (E.G., BRAZIL) MIGHT BE OUR STALKING HORSE AND WE COULD LOOK TO CALVANI FOR HELP ON LOS, PANAMA AND PERHAPS THE FUTURE RESTRUCTURING OF INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION.

7. WHAT WOULD NOT GO DOWN WELL IN VENEZUELA AT MEETING TOMORROW BETWEEN SECRETARY AND COLOMBIAN FONMIN WOULD BE FOR IDEA TO GET ABOUT THAT VASQUEZ CARRIZOSA IS THE SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR LATIN AMERICA. ALL FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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BY VIRTUE OF THEIR OFFICE PRIMA DONNAS TO SOME EXTENT, BUT SOME ARE MORE SO. I MERELY WANT MY PRIMA DONNA HERE TO SING IN TUNE.
MCCLINTOCK

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